(a) the criteria for the allocation of naptha to the States for petrochemical industries;

(b) whether the Government of Rajasthan has made a request to the Union Government for allocation of naptha for production of soda ash, urea, diamond phosphate and to set up a petro-chemical complex in Rajasthan; and

(c) if so, the decision taken by the Government on the said request?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Sabic Subsidies

3158. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Petrochem makes irked at FIPB clearance to Sabic Subsidiary" appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated July 12, 1997;

(b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;

(c) the reasons for clearance to sabic subsidiary;

(d) the likely impact on the Indian Petrochem industry; and

(e) the measures taken by the Government to boost the products of Indian Petrochemicals Industry?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) FIPB cleared the proposal on the grounds that in this proposal, foreign equity was 51% only and there were no policy/restriction on trading by foreign joint ventures in petrochemicals/plastics, besides the item is on OGL.

(d) and (e) Indian companies will be exposed to greater competion which in turn, will require them to be more competitive both price-wise and quality-wise. Except for certain hazardous process based petrochemical products, production of all petrochemical products has been delicensed. This provides an opportunity to the Indian petrochemical industry to develop itself to international standards.

Fishermen Training Facility

3159. SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have any proposal to set up centres to provide training facilities for the benefit of fishermen in the coastal areas of Southern States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of centres likely to be established for the purpose along with the location thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) and (b) To provide training facilities for the benefit of fishermen, the Government have sanctioned the establishment/upgradation of 12 training centres in the Southern States under various Centrally Sponsored/Central Sector Schemes as per the details furnished in the Statement attached.

(c) As and when proposals in this regard are received, these will be examined.

Statement

List of Training Centres for the benefit of fishermen in the Southern States

Sl. No.	Name of the State	Name of the Scheme			Total
		Fresh water Aquaculture	Brackishwater Aquaculture	Fisheries Training & Extension	
1.	Andhra Pradesh	1	1	2	4
2.	Karnataka	1	–	2	3
3.	Kerala	1	1	–	2
4.	Tamil Nadu	1	1	1	3
	Total:	4	3	5*	12

* Sanctioned for upgradation of existing centres.

[Translation]

Release of Forest Land for Dolomite Mines

3160. SHRI BRAJ MOHAN RAM : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: